AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports one or more software applications each having one or more configuration settings which determine how a software application operates on data processed by the software application, and wherein the configuration settings of a software application are subject to change over time to change how the data is operated upon by the software application, a method of reverting a current configuration setting for a software application to a previous configuration setting so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software, the method comprising acts of at the computer system:

based upon a request from a user or a selection from the software application, generating changes to the software application's configuration settings;

updating a configuration store by storing therein the changed application configuration settings of the software application to maintain a history of one or more configuration setting changes for the software application;

generating a package that uniquely identifies the contents of the package and the changes to the software application's configuration settings so that the package will then be later recalled and used when reverting the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings;

storing the package in a software application configuration log;

displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including filtering functionality for filtering application configuration information based on a per application basis including displaying the name of one or more applications such that configuration information for a specific application can be selected;

in response to a user selection of an application from the graphical user interface, retrieving the stored package when desirable to revert the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings so that the software application will be capable of operating on data in the same manner as the software

application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software; and

using the contents of the package and the changes to the configuration settings of the software application uniquely identified by the package to revert the configuration settings back to the configuration settings that existed prior to the changes identified by the package so the software application will thereafter be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did prior to such changes.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1 or 24, wherein using the contents of the package to revert the configuration settings comprises calling a reversion routine and passing at least a portion of the contents of the package to the routine, and wherein the routine displays a link that gives user instructions on procedural steps to perform in order to revert to the previous configuration setting.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the routine automatically reverts to the application's previous configuration setting.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1 or 24, wherein the reversion which occurs when using the contents of the package to revert the configuration settings back to the application's previous configuration setting is one of an undo, redo or rollback operation.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the package's configuration information is XML data comprising a header portion and an application portion, wherein the header portion comprises data used in the displaying a representation of the application configuration information, and wherein the application portion comprises data that is passed to the routine for reverting to the application's previous configuration setting.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the header data used in the displaying a representation of the application configuration information is selected from at least one of a title, application name, date or time.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the header portion further comprises the reversion routine called.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the header portion further comprises a pointer to the reversion routine called.

9.   (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1 or 24, wherein the reversion routine calls one or more other routines for reverting to the application's previous configuration setting.

10.   (Previously Presented) The method of claims 1 or 24, wherein using the contents of the package to revert the configuration settings back to the configuration settings that existed prior to the changes identified by the package comprises displaying a representation of the application configuration information within one or more user interfaces for viewing and selection, and wherein at least one of the one or more user interfaces is a browser.

11-23. (Cancelled)

24.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports one or more software applications each having one or more configuration settings which determine how a software application operates on data processed by the software application, and wherein the configuration settings of a software application are subject to change over time to change how the data is operated upon by the software application, a computer readable storage media configured to provide storage within the computer system of computer executable instructions that implement a method of reverting a current configuration setting for a software application to a previous configuration setting so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software, the method comprising acts of:

based upon a request from a user or a selection from the software application, generating changes to the software application's configuration settings;

updating a configuration store by storing therein the changed application configuration settings of the software application to maintain a history of one or more configuration setting changes for the software application;

generating a package that uniquely identifies the contents of the package and the changes to the software application's configuration settings so that the package will then be later recalled and used when reverting the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings;

storing the package in a software application configuration log;

displaying a graphical user interface, the graphical user interface including filtering functionality for filtering application configuration information based on a per application basis including displaying the name of one or more applications such that configuration information for a specific application can be selected;

in response to a user selection of an application from the graphical user interface, retrieving the stored package when desirable to revert the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings so that the software application will be capable of operating on data in the same manner as the software application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software; and

using the contents of the package and the changes to the configuration settings of the software application uniquely identified by the package to revert the configuration settings back to the configuration settings that existed prior to the changes identified by the package so the software application will thereafter configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did prior to such changes.

25.-41. (Cancelled)

42.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports one or more software applications each having one or more configuration settings which determine how a software application operates on data processed by the software application, and wherein the configuration settings of a software application are subject to change over time to change how the data is operated upon by the software application, a method of reverting a current configuration setting for a software application to a previous configuration setting so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software, the method comprising acts of at the computer system:

based upon a request from a user or a selection from the software application, generating changes to the software application's configuration settings;

updating a configuration store by storing therein the changed application configuration settings of the software application to maintain a history of one or more configuration setting changes for the software application;

generating a package that uniquely identifies the contents of the package and the changes to the software application's configuration settings so that the package will then be later recalled and used when reverting the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings, the package comprising,

a header portion including at least one of a title of the changes made, a name of the application software, the date and the time of the configuration changes, the header portion further comprising a reversion routine; and

an application payload portion containing data used in assisting in reverting the software application to its previous configuration setting prior to the changes;

storing the package in a software application configuration log which comprises,

a log store used to store the package, and

a user interface (UI) to browse the stored log to display the information contained in the header portion of the package so that a history of configuration changes are viewed and changes of interest are selected to use in reverting the software application to at least some of the prior configuration settings that existed prior to the changes reflected in the package;

retrieving the stored package when desirable to revert at least some of the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the at least some previous configuration settings that were used by the application software;

viewing the header portion of the package and selecting from the history of configuration changes therein at least some changes to be reverted; and

using the contents of the package and the application payload portion thereof to revert at least the selected changes of the configuration settings back to the configuration settings that existed prior to the changes so the software application will thereafter be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did prior to such changes.

43.   (Previously Presented) The method of claims 42 or 51, wherein the package of information is XML data.

44 – 45 (Cancelled)

46.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the header portion further comprises a pointer to a reversion routine.

47.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4345, wherein the reversion routine calls one or more other routines for reverting to the application's previous configuration setting.

48.   (Currently Amended)The method of claim 4345, wherein the reversion routine displays a link that gives user instructions on procedural steps to perform in order to revert to the previous configuration setting.

49.   (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4345, wherein the reversion routine automatically reverts to the application's previous configuration setting.

50.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the reversion which occurs when using the contents of the package to revert the configuration settings back to the application's previous configuration setting is one of an undo, redo or rollback operation.

51.   (Currently Amended) In a computer system that supports one or more software applications each having one or more configuration settings which determine how a software application operates on data processed by the software application, and wherein the configuration settings of a software application are subject to change over time to change how the data is operated upon by the software application, a computer readable storage media configured to provide storage within the computer system of computer executable instructions that implement a method of reverting a current configuration setting for a software application to a previous configuration setting so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the previous configuration settings that were used by the application software, the method comprising acts of:

based upon a request from a user or a selection from the software application, generating changes to the software application's configuration settings;

updating a configuration store by storing therein the changed application configuration settings of the software application to maintain a history of one or more configuration setting changes for the software application;

generating a package that uniquely identifies the contents of the package and the changes to the software application's configuration settings so that the package will then be later recalled and used when reverting the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings, the package comprising,

a header portion including at least one of a title of the changes made, a name of the application software, the date and the time of the configuration changes, <u>the header portion further comprising a reversion routine;</u> and

an application payload portion containing data used in assisting in reverting the software application to its previous configuration setting prior to the changes;

storing the package in a software application configuration log which comprises,

a log store used to store the package, and

a user interface (UI) to browse the stored log to display the information contained in the header portion of the package so that a history of configuration changes are viewed and changes of interest are selected to use in reverting the software application to at least some of the prior configuration settings that existed prior to the changes reflected in the package;

retrieving the stored package when desirable to revert at least some of the configuration settings of the software application back to a state that existed prior to the changes in the configuration settings so that the software application will be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did with the at least some previous configuration settings that were used by the application software;

viewing the header portion of the package and selecting from the history of configuration changes therein at least some changes to be reverted; and

using the contents of the package and the application payload portion thereof to revert at least the selected changes of the configuration settings back to the configuration settings that existed prior to the changes so the software application will thereafter be configured to operate on data in the same manner as the software application did prior to such changes.

52.   (Canceled)

53.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising encrypting the package.

54.   (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein generating changes to the software application's configuration settings is performed while the application is not being executed.